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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/900,344 | CALDWELL ET AL. |
| | Examiner Matthew O Savage | Art Unit 1723 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 1-16-04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-26 renumbered 1-12, respectively.
3. The drawings filed on 06 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William W. Lewis III on 4-15-04.

Claims 1, 5-7, and 11-14 have been canceled.

15. A fluid filtration assembly for filtering a fluid in a vehicle transmission, the fluid filtration assembly comprising:

a housing including an upper supply side lid connected to a lower supply side pan, and an upper return side lid connected to a lower return side pan;

a supply side filter media sealingly disposed between said supply side lid and said supply side pan to form a lower supply side inlet chamber and an upper supply side outlet chamber;

a return side filter media sealingly disposed between said return side lid and said return side pan to form a lower return side inlet chamber and an upper return side outlet chamber;

a supply side outlet on said supply side lid for connecting the supply side outlet chamber to a supply side inlet of said transmission;

a return side inlet on said return side lid for connecting the return side inlet chamber to a return side outlet of said transmission;

a supply side inlet on said supply side pan for connecting a sump of said transmission to the supply side inlet chamber; and

a return side outlet on said return side lid for connecting the return side outlet chamber to said sump.

16. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 15, wherein said lower supply side pan and said lower return side pan are formed as one piece.

17. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 15, wherein said return side filter media is operable to remove particulates at least of a first size and the supply side filter media is operable to remove particulates of at least a second size, and the particulates of the first size being smaller than particulates of the second size.

18. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 15, further comprising said vehicle transmission including said sump, wherein said filtration assembly is disposed in said sump.

19. A fluid filtration assembly for filtering a fluid in a vehicle transmission, the fluid filtration assembly comprising:

a housing including an upper supply side lid connected to a lower supply side pan, and an upper return side lid connected to a lower return side pan;

a supply side filter media sealingly disposed between said supply side lid and said supply side pan to form a lower supply side inlet chamber and an upper supply side outlet chamber;

a return side filter media sealingly disposed between said return side lid and said return side pan to form an upper return side inlet chamber and a lower return side outlet chamber;

a supply side outlet on said supply side lid for connecting the supply side outlet chamber to a supply side inlet of said transmission;

a return side inlet on said return side lid for connecting the return side inlet chamber to a return side outlet of said transmission;

a supply side inlet on said supply side pan for connecting a sump of said transmission to the supply side inlet chamber; and

a return side outlet on said return side pan for connecting the return side outlet chamber to said sump.

20. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 19, wherein said lower supply side pan and said lower return side pan are formed as one piece.

21. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 19, wherein said return side filter media is operable to remove particulates at least of a first size and the supply

side filter media is operable to remove particulates of at least a second size, and the particulates of the first size being smaller than particulates of the second size.

22. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 19, further comprising said vehicle transmission including said sump, wherein said filtration assembly is disposed in said sump.

23. A fluid filtration assembly for filtering a fluid in a vehicle transmission, the fluid filtration assembly comprising:

a housing including an upper supply side lid connected to a lower supply side pan, and an upper return side lid connected to a lower return side pan;

a supply side filter media sealingly disposed between said supply side lid and said supply side pan to form a lower supply side inlet chamber and an upper supply side outlet chamber;

a return side filter media sealingly disposed between said return side lid and said return side pan to form a lower return side inlet chamber and an upper return side outlet chamber;

a supply side outlet on said supply side lid for connecting the supply side outlet chamber to a supply side inlet of said transmission;

a return side inlet on said return side lid for connecting the return side inlet chamber to a return side outlet of said transmission;

a supply side inlet on said supply side pan for connecting a sump of said transmission to the supply side inlet chamber; and

a return side outlet extending through said upper return side lid and said upper supply side lid for connecting the return side outlet chamber to said supply side outlet chamber.

24. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 23, wherein said upper supply side lid and said upper return side lid are formed as one piece.

25. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 23, wherein said return side filter media is operable to remove particulates at least of a first size and the supply side filter media is operable to remove particulates of at least a second size, and the particulates of the first size being smaller than particulates of the second size.

26. The fluid filtration assembly according to claim 23, further comprising said vehicle transmission including said sump, wherein said filtration assembly is disposed in said sump.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Beer et al is considered the closest prior art, however, the reference fails to teach or suggest the instantly claimed relation of the supply side filter media sealingly disposed between the upper supply side lid and lower supply side pan to form a lower supply inlet chamber

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and an upper supply outlet chamber, a supply side inlet opening on the supply side pan for connecting a sump of the transmission to the supply side inlet chamber as recited in instant claims 15, 19, and 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:00am-2:30pm.

Matthew O. Savage
Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

mos
April 16, 2004